

April 10, 1984
Bldg. 37, Rm. 6A09

(301) 496-6007

George Klein, M.D.
Karolinska Institutet
Box 60 400
S-104 01 Stockholm
Sweden

Dear George,

Thank you for your recent letter. The cells should be on their way or already in your hands by now. Please telex if everything is alright.

* I am pleased to tell you that I believe we now have the AIDS etiology in hand. We have 51 isolates of a variant of HTLV. We call it HTLV-III. It has most of the essential HTLV-I features, but it is more related to II than I. It is more infectious than I or II and much more cytopathic. Several prospective case studies and the serology also indicate it is the cause (>85% of AIDS are +; less than 1% of normal heterosexuals about 80% of lymphadenopathy cases, a high % of high risk normals e.g. contacts, Haitians, Zairians, and hemophiliacs, and more than 90% of "normal" blood donors suspected of giving some recipient AIDS. A key question is how these viruses can suppress T-cell growth, whereas other types can cause T-cell immortalization. Yet, even types I and II which immortalize some T-cells, harm the function and growth of many others.

See you soon in Cremona!

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

Robert C. Gallo, M.D.

RG/smd

* 10070 in the latest series